This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for assembling first and second mold parts having contact lens forming surfaces, wherein said first mold part has a reaction mixture on said contact lens forming surface, said apparatus comprising movement preventing means which prevents said first mold part from being lifted towards said second mold part ~~moving~~ while said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part is controllably moved into said reaction mixture ~~from a first position wherein said second mold part is not in contact with said reaction mixture on said first mold part to a position wherein the~~ at least until a majority of said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part has been wetted by said reaction mixture on said first mold part.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said movement preventing means comprises a vacuum.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said movement preventing means comprises mechanical means.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said movement preventing means comprises moveable mechanical means.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said movement preventing means comprises fingers.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said movement preventing means comprises weight.

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said apparatus moves said [[first]] second mold part ~~from said first position to said second position~~ into said reaction mixture at a speed, at least initially, of less than 0.35 mm/sec.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said [[first]] second mold part is moved at a speed from 0.1 to 0.3mm/sec.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently amended) A method for assembling first and second mold parts having contact lens forming surfaces, wherein said first mold part has a reaction mixture on said contact lens forming surface, said method comprising the step of: preventing said first mold part from ~~moving~~ being lifted towards said second mold part while controllably moving said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part into said reaction mixture, ~~from a first position wherein said second mold part is not in contact with said reaction mixture on said first mold part to a position wherein the~~ at least until a majority of said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part has been wetted by said reaction mixture on said first mold part.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said step of preventing said first mold part from ~~moving~~ being lifted is accomplished by holding said first mold part by using a vacuum source.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said step of preventing said first mold part from ~~moving~~ being lifted is accomplished by holding said first mold part by using mechanical fingers.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein said step of preventing said first mold part from ~~moving~~ being lifted is accomplished by holding said first mold part by using a vacuum.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein said step of preventing said first mold part from ~~moving~~ being lifted is accomplished by holding said first mold part by using mechanical means.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said step of preventing step said first mold part from ~~moving~~ being lifted is accomplished by moving mechanical means onto said first mold part.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein said step of preventing step said first mold part from ~~moving~~ being lifted is accomplished by applying weight to said first mold part.

18. The method of claim 11 wherein said controllably moving step is performed at a speed of less than 0.35 mm/sec.

19. (Canceled).

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a rate of controllably moving said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part into said reaction mixture is increased after a majority of said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part has been wetted by said reaction mixture.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said movement preventing means is deactivated when said rate of controllably moving said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part into said reaction mixture is increased.

22. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein a rate of controllably moving said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part into said reaction mixture is increased after a majority of said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part has been wetted by said reaction mixture.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of preventing said first mold part from being lifted is removed when said rate of controllably moving said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part into said reaction mixture is increased.

24. (New) An apparatus for assembling first and second mold parts having contact lens forming surfaces, wherein said first mold part has a reaction mixture on said contact lens forming surface, said apparatus comprising movement preventing means which prevents said first mold part from moving, said movement preventing means being activated during one portion of travel of said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part into said reaction mixture and being deactivated during another portion of travel of said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part into said reaction mixture.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part is moved into said reaction mixture at a speed of less than about 0.35 mm/sec.

26. (New) A method for assembling first and second mold parts having contact lens forming surfaces, wherein said first mold part has a reaction mixture on said contact lens forming surface, said method comprising the step of: controllably moving said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part into said reaction mixture at a first rate until a majority of said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part has been wetted by said reaction mixture, and thereafter moving said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part further into said reaction mixture at a second rate that is greater than said first rate.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of preventing the first mold part from lifting toward said second mold during said first rate.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said first rate is less than about 0.35 mm/sec.